

CHAPTER 3

II. VARIATION IN FINDINGS RELATED TO LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY COALITIONS BY SIZE OF POPULATION SERVED

Number of Community Coalitions: 71% of agencies serving populations up to 20,000 work with up to 5 different community groups. As the size of population increases, the number of different community groups that agencies work with also increases. Fifty-four percent (54%) of agencies that serve populations greater than 80,000 work with more than 20 different groups. An additional 31% of these agencies work with 11 to 20 groups. (See Introductory Question Graph and Data Table.)

Structure of Community Coalitions: 77% of agencies that serve populations greater than 80,000 and 73% of agencies that serve populations from 40,001 to 80,000 work primarily with a community group that is formal in structure. Agencies serving smaller population sizes are more likely to work mainly with an informal community group. Forty-three percent (43%) of agencies serving populations from 20,001 to 40,000, and only 30% of agencies serving populations up to 20,000, work closely with a formally structured community group. (See Graph 9.B. and Data Table 9.B.)

Leadership For Community Groups: 92% of agencies that serve populations greater than 80,000, and 87% of agencies that serve populations from 40,001 to 80,000 provide leadership for the community group they work most closely with. Seventy-three percent (73%) of agencies that serve populations from 20,001 to 40,000, and 71% of agencies serving populations up to 20,000, have a leadership role within their main community group. (See Graph 10.B. and Data Table 10.B.)

Decision Making Process: agencies serving larger populations are more likely to work primarily with a community group that reaches consensus when making decisions. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of agencies serving populations greater than 80,000 use this method compared to 36% of agencies serving populations up to 20,000. Agencies serving smaller population are more likely to work with a community group that makes decisions by majority rule. Sixty-one percent (61%) of agencies serving populations up to 20,000 use majority rule for decisions compared to 31% of agencies serving populations greater than 80,000. (See Graph 11. and Data Table 11.)

Membership of Community Groups: 46% of agencies serving populations greater than 80,000 work mainly with a community group that has more than 60 active members. Most agencies serving all other sizes of population work with groups of up to 20 active members. (See Graph 12.B.1. and Data Table 12.B.1.)

Functioning of Community Groups: 93% of agencies serving populations of 40,001 to 80,000 report that they work mainly with a community group that works at a high level of collaboration. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of agencies serving populations greater than 80,000, 60% of agencies serving populations of 20,001 to 40,000, and 52% of agencies serving up to

20,000 also report that their primary community group collaborates. (See Graph 12.C. and Data Table 12.C.)

Community Health Planning Activities: agencies serving populations from 40,001 to 80,000 are more likely than agencies serving other sizes of populations to work primarily with a community group that leads the process of community health planning. For 14 of the 16 activities mentioned in the survey, a higher percentage of agencies serving populations from 40,001 to 80,000 reports that their community group leads the activity. (See Graphs 12.D.1. thru 12.D.16. and Data Tables 12.D.1. thru 12.D.16.)